



REIGN OF THE SUPERMEN!



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1993

20

SUPERMAN

IN ACTION COMICS



BY
**ROGER STERN,
JACKSON GUICE
& DENIS RODIER**

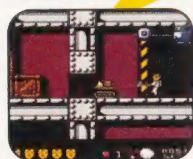
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ENOUGH FOR
FOUR
SUPERMEN!**

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Buckle Up!
FUN SAFETY



PULL IT
TOGETHER, TANA!
WE'RE ON THE AIR
--LIVE!

JUST
TELL 'EM
HOW YOU
FEEL!

TERRIBLE...
THIS IS
TERRIBLE!

IT'S LIKE...
LIKE A SCENE
FROM SOME
DISASTER
MOVIE.

BUT THIS IS
NO MOVIE... THIS
IS A REAL
DISASTER! HORRI-
BLY REAL!

F-FOR THOSE
OF YOU JUST JOINING
US... THE BAKERLINE
END OF METROPOLIS'S
FAMED NOBSNECK
BRIDGE--

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-- HAS COLLAPSED! THE BRIDGE'S NORTHERN MOST MOORINGS WERE LEVELLED IN A VIOLENT EXPLOSION... TRIGGERED BY A MASKED TERRORIST CALLING HIMSELF THE STINGER!

GOOD WORK, KIDDO. NOW TELL 'EM WHO YOU ARE.

THIS IS TANA MOON, CBS NEWS, LIVE AT THE SCENE... WHERE, JUST MOMENTS AGO, THE YOUTHFUL NEW INCARNATION OF SUPERMAN... FOUGHT VALIANTLY AGAINST THE TERRORIST...



...THERE HAVE BEEN NO SIGNS OF EITHER THE STINGER OR THE YOUNG HEROES WHO--!

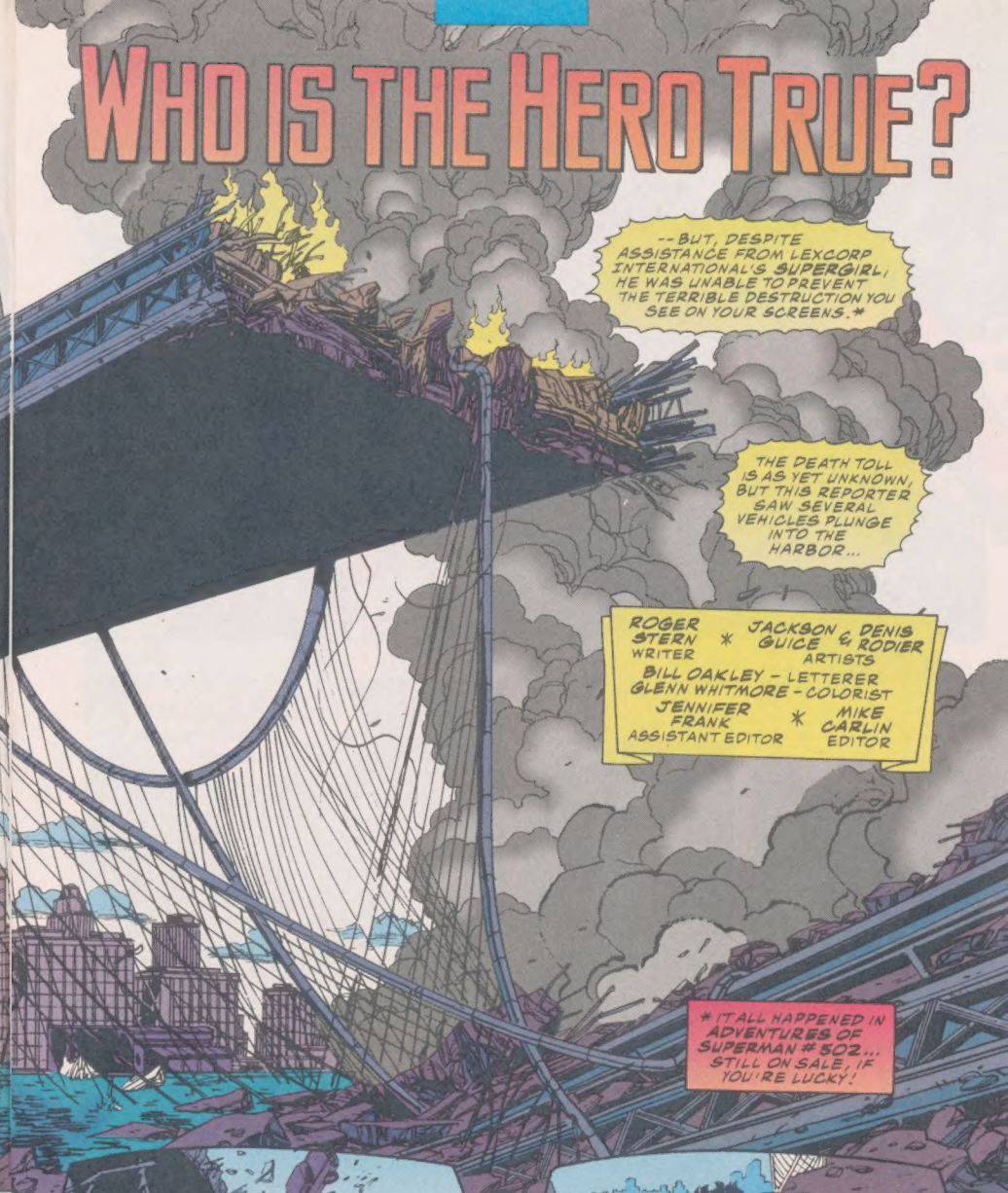
NO, WAIT!



THERE'S MOVEMENT--!

YES, BOTH SUPERMAN AND SUPERGIRL APPEAR TO BE ALIVE! SUPERMAN, CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

WHO IS THE HERO TRUE?

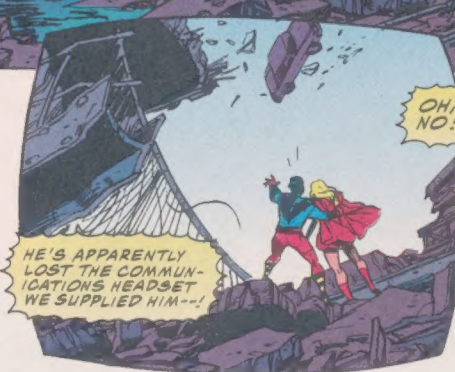


--BUT, DESPITE ASSISTANCE FROM LEXCORP INTERNATIONAL'S SUPERGIRL, HE WAS UNABLE TO PREVENT THE TERRIBLE DESTRUCTION YOU SEE ON YOUR SCREENS.*

THE DEATH TOLL IS AS YET UNKNOWN, BUT THIS REPORTER SAW SEVERAL VEHICLES PLUNGE INTO THE HARBOR...

ROGER STERN * JACKSON & DENIS GUICE & RODIER
WRITER ARTISTS
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST
JENNIFER FRANK * MIKE CARLIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR EDITOR

* IT ALL HAPPENED IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN # 502... STILL ON SALE, IF YOU'RE LUCKY!



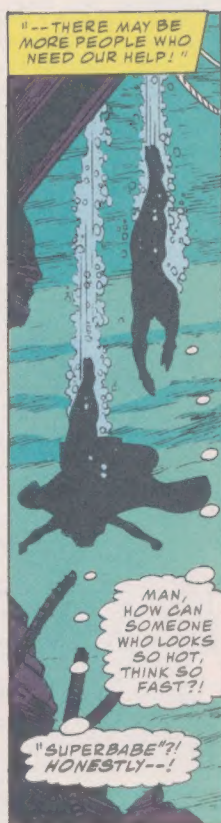
OH, NO!!

THAT CAR--!

HE'S APPARENTLY LOST THE COMMUNICATIONS HEADSET WE SUPPLIED HIM--!



CAN HE POSSIBLY REACH IT IN TIME?!



The First CD-ROM Game in a Cartridge!

FLASHBACK

THE QUEST FOR IDENTITY™



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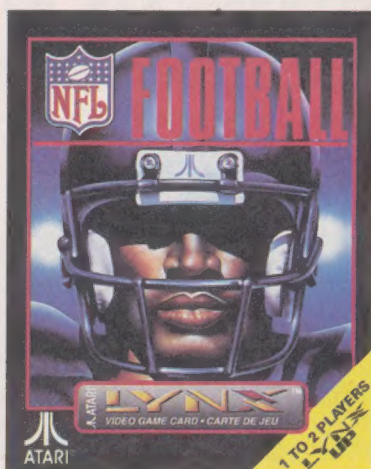
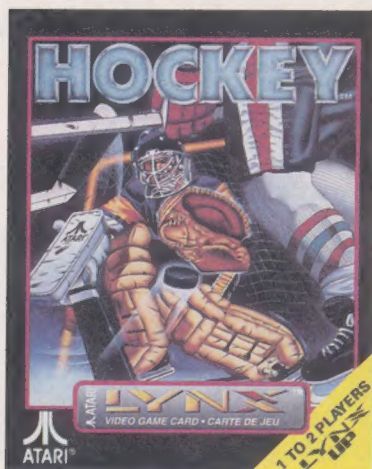
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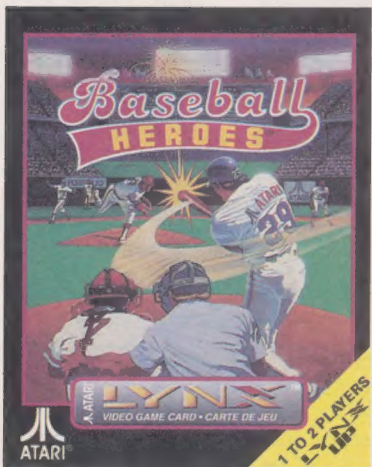
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THANK HEAVENS,
THERE ARE SOME
SURVIVORS!

WE GOT
HERE
JUST IN
TIME!

WOW! STILL
KICKIN'
AFTER A
TUMBLE
LIKE THAT,
HUH?



SOMETHING LIKE THIS
MUST SURE MAKE YOU A
BELIEVER IN AIR-BAGS!

"THIS... DEBACLE MAKES NEWS
REENACTMENTS LOOK LIKE A
QUEST FOR PURE TRUTH. I
CAN'T PROVE ANYTHING..."

...BUT I KNOW THAT
VINCENT EDGE HAD A
HAND IN SETTING UP
THAT FIGHT BETWEEN
SUPERMAN AND THE
STINGER. NOW A
BRIDGE IS DOWN...
PEOPLE ARE DEAD!
AND FOR WHAT?

TANA,
YOU'RE ON!
SAY SOME-
THING!

EMERGENCY
MEDICAL TECHNI-
CIANS HAVE ARRIVED
ON THE SCENE, AND
ARE EVEN NOW
WORKING TO STABIL-
IZE THE VICTIMS--

LIVE REMOTE

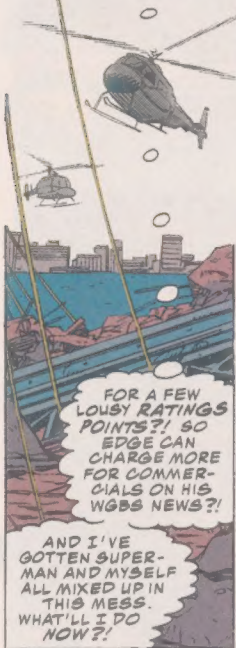
--OF THIS TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE

UNIT 12,
WE ARE
NEEDED.

BUT I WAS
ORDERED TO
MONITOR--!

THIS
TAKES
PRIORITY...

LIVE REMOTE



FOR A FEW
LOUSY RATINGS
POINTS?! SO
EDGE CAN
CHARGE MORE
FOR COMMERCIALS
ON HIS
WGSS NEWS?!

AND I'VE
GOTTEN SUPER-
MAN AND MYSELF
ALL MIXED UP IN
THIS MESS.
WHAT'LL I DO
NOW?!

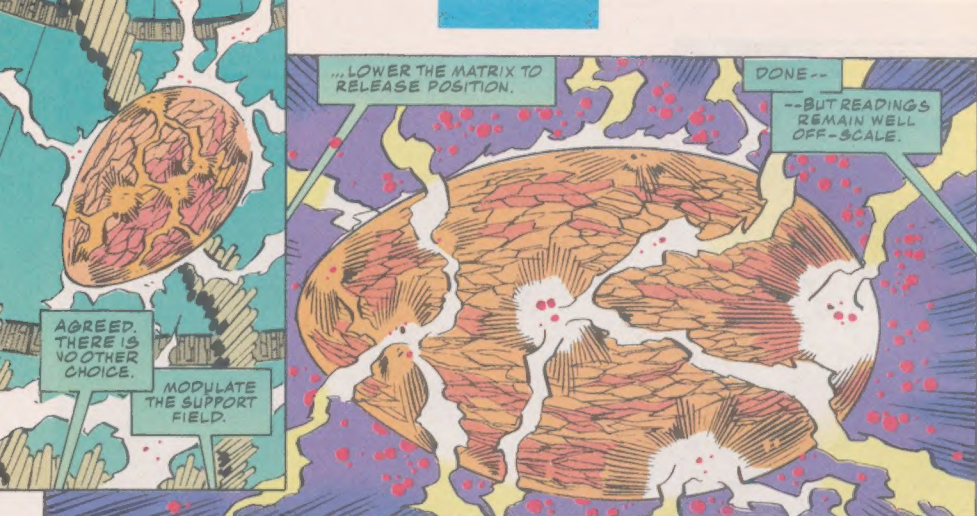


"... THE MASTER'S REGENERATION MATRIX
IS EXPERIENCING ENERGY OVERLOAD."

SHUT DOWN
ALL SOLAR
RECEPTORS!

DONE, BUT
THE OVER-
LOAD EFFECT
CONTINUES.

THERE
MUST BE A
RELEASE!



...LOWER THE MATRIX TO
RELEASE POSITION.

DONE--

--BUT READINGS
REMAIN WELL
OFF-SCALE.

AGREED.
THERE IS
NO OTHER
CHOICE.

MODULATE
THE SUPPORT
FIELD.

THIS IS
WITHOUT
PRECEDENT.

EVERYTHING THAT HAS OCCURRED
SINCE THE MASTER'S DISCOR-
PORATION HAS BEEN WITHOUT
PRECEDENT.

WE WERE PROGRAM-
MED TO IMPROVISE
UNDER UNCERTAIN
SITUATIONS...

... WE MUST
PROCEED WITH
CAUTION AND BE
READY TO--!

ALERT! ALERT! THE
MATRIX SEAL HAS
RUPTURED!

PREPARE
TO RECEIVE
OCCUPANT!



UHHN?

HE AWAKES!

DIM THE
LIGHTING--
HIS EYES
MAY YET
BE SENSI-
TIVE!

WHO...WHO'S
THERE--?

MASTER...MASTER?
HOW DO YOU
FEEL?



FEEL? A LITTLE...
FUZZY-HEADED.

SOME DISORIENTA-
TION IS TO BE
EXPECTED.

DO YOU RECOG-
NIZE US? DO YOU
KNOW WHERE
YOU ARE?

YOU'RE... THE
FORTRESS
ROBOTS. THEN...
I'M IN... THE
ANTARCTIC... IN
THE UNDERGROUND
HIDEAWAY?

CORRECT.

MASTER
YOU SEEM
UNSTEADY ON
YOUR FEET...



...THIS IS TO BE EXPECTED,
FOLLOWING SUCH A RUDE
AWAKENING. ALLOW US
TO SEAT YOU.

A-ALL RIGHT.

IS THERE ANY-
THING ELSE
YOU REQUIRE...

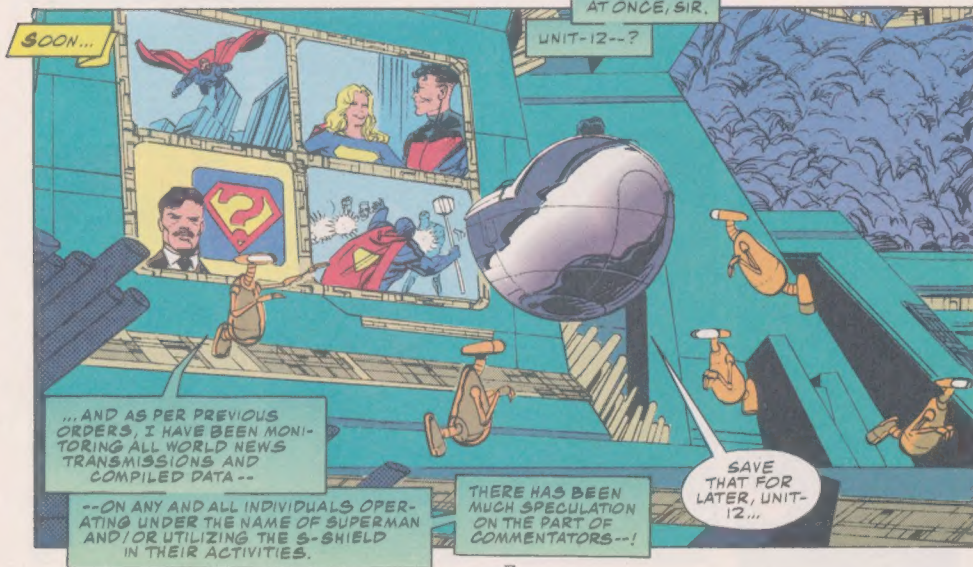
...ANY OTHER
WAY IN WHICH
WE MAY BE OF
SERVICE?



YES... YOU CAN
TELL ME WHAT'S BEEN
GOING ON.

AT ONCE, SIR.

UNIT-12--?



SOON...

...AND AS PER PREVIOUS
ORDERS, I HAVE BEEN MONI-
TORING ALL WORLD NEWS
TRANSMISSIONS AND
COMPILED DATA--

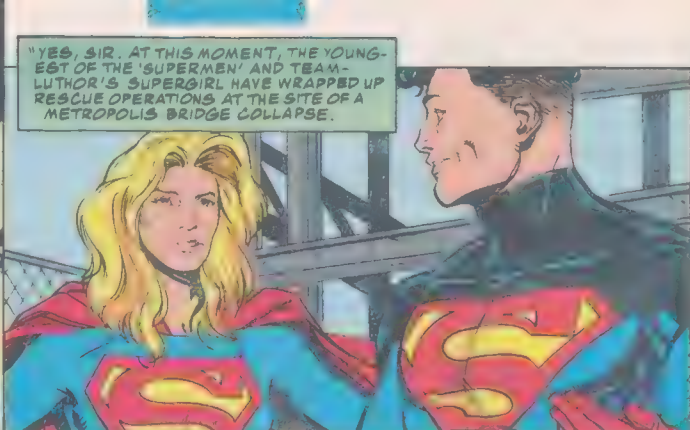
--ON ANY AND ALL INDIVIDUALS OPER-
ATING UNDER THE NAME OF SUPERMAN
AND/OR UTILIZING THE S-SHIELD
IN THEIR ACTIVITIES.

THERE HAS BEEN
MUCH SPECULATION
ON THE PART OF
COMMENTATORS--!

SAVE
THAT FOR
LATER, UNIT-
12...

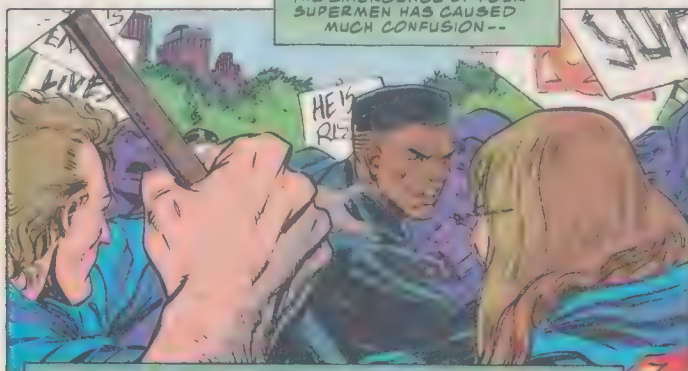


... SHOW ME WHAT'S GOING ON RIGHT NOW.



"YES, SIR. AT THIS MOMENT, THE YOUNGEST OF THE 'SUPERMEN' AND TEAM-LUTHOR'S SUPERGIRL HAVE WRAPPED UP RESCUE OPERATIONS AT THE SITE OF A METROPOLIS BRIDGE COLLAPSE.

"ALSO IN THAT CITY, CULTISTS WHO WORSHIP SUPERMAN AS A LIVING GOD CONTINUE TO RALLY IN CENTENNIAL PARK. THE EMERGENCE OF FOUR SUPERMEN HAS CAUSED MUCH CONFUSION--



--AND HAS ALREADY LED TO ONE MAJOR SC- IN THE GROUP. CITY AUTHORITIES FEEL THAT THIS MAY LEAD TO VIOLENCE.

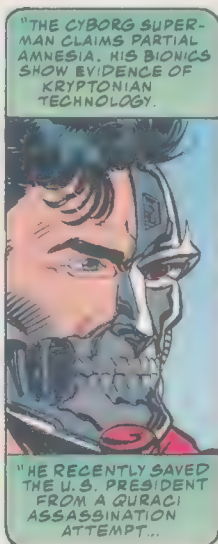


THIS IS NOT GOOD. THIS IS NOT GOOD AT ALL.



UNIT-12, GIVE ME A RUN-DOWN ON ALL KNOWN... SUPERMEN.

YES, SIR.



"THE CYBORG SUPERMAN CLAIMS PARTIAL AMNESIA. HIS BIONICS SHOW EVIDENCE OF KRYPTONIAN TECHNOLOGY.

"HE RECENTLY SAVED THE U.S. PRESIDENT FROM A QURACI ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT...



"...SOME PUNDITS HAVE CALLED THE YOUNGEST PRETENDER 'SUPERBOY'. HE OBJECTS VENERBENTLY TO THAT NAME.

"HE CLAIMS TO BE A COUNTESS OF SUPERMAN, AND HAS MAINTAINED A HIGH PROFILE THANKS TO GALAXY BROADCASTING.



"LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE SO-CALLED MAN OF STEEL. HE IS CURRENTLY BELIEVED TO BE A MAN IN AN ARMORED SUIT, AND NOT A ROBOT.



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"...DRAWING THE
GREATEST NEGATIVE
RESPONSE FROM
METROPOLIS POLICE
IS--"



STOP
THAT SNT
NECESSARY



I'VE HEARD
MORE THAN
ENOUGH.

THINGS HAVE
GOTTEN COMPLETELY
OUT OF HAND

THE NAME
OF SUPERMAN
WILL NOT BE
TURNED INTO A
FRANCHISE.



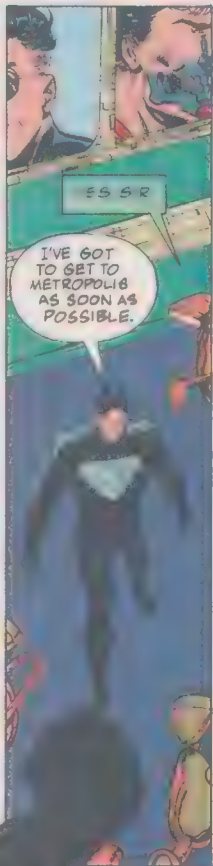
SOMETHING
MUST BE DONE
ABOUT THIS.

CONTINUE
YOUR MONITORING,
UNIT-12. CHECK
EVERY SOURCE YOU
CAN FIND--I
WANT MORE IN-
FORMATION.



SSR

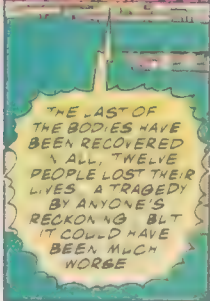
I'VE GOT
TO GET TO
METROPOLIS
AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.



A BRIDGE NOT
FAR FROM
COVERAGE OF THE
COLLAPSE OF THE
"HOBSNECK BRIDGE
NOW CONTINUES
WITH GBS SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT
TANA MOON



THE LAST OF
THE BODIES HAVE
BEEN RECOVERED
ALL TWELVE
PEOPLE LOST THEIR
LIVES. A TRAGEDY
BY ANYONE'S
RECKONING BUT
IT COULD HAVE
BEEN MUCH
WORSE



...QUICK WORK BY SUPERMAN AND SUPERGIRL IS CREDITED WITH SAVING THE LIVES OF TWENTY-SEVEN PEOPLE AND SECURING THE BRIDGE FROM FURTHER DAMAGE

MEANWHILE, SERIOUS QUESTIONS REMAIN ABOUT THE ARCHITECT OF THIS DISASTER..

SO, THERE'S NO SIGN OF THIS STINGER CHARACTER?

NONE, I'D HOPED THAT PART OF THE BRIDGE FELL ON HIM, LIKE IT DID ON US, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE GOT AWAY!

THAT MASKED CREEP BETTER ENJOY HIS FREEDOM WHILE HE CAN... 'CAUSE IT WON'T LAST! I'M GONNA NAIL 'IM... YOU CAN COUNT ON IT!

THIS IS... PERSONAL.

THERE'S NO NEED TO PLAY THE LONE WOLF, SUPERMAN. I HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH MR. STINGER, AS WELL

LET'S YANK HIS STING TOGETHER... WHAT DO YOU SAY?

AHHH, I DON'T KNOW, BABE. DON'T GET ME WRONG, IT'S A KICK WORKING WITH YOU, BUT SOME THINGS I GOTTA DO MYSELF.

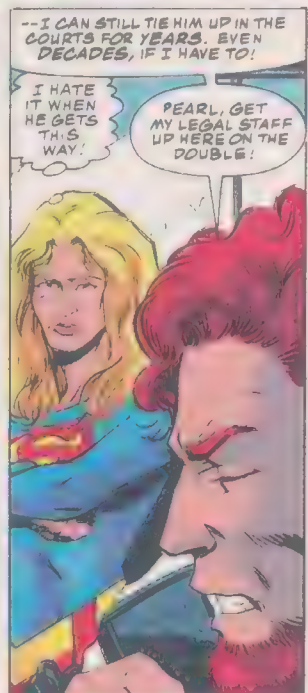
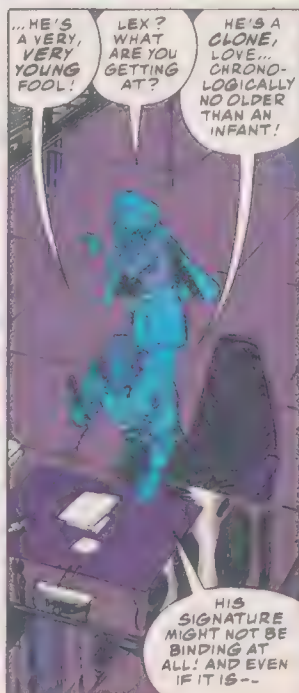
IT'S MY REP ON THE LINE HERE, Y'KNOW?

HEY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT...

...YOU'RE GOING TO BE JOINING THE TEAM LUTHOR FAMILY, REMEMBER? YOU CAN'T ASK FOR A BETTER REP THAN THAT. AND WITH LEXCORP'S RESOURCES, WE'LL TRACK DOWN THE STINGER IN NO TIME!

LEX HAS THE CONTRACTS ALL READY AND WAITING.

UH, YEAH... YEAH, RIGHT. LISTEN, ABOUT THOSE CONTRACTS..

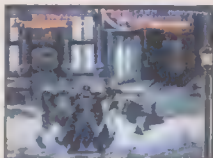


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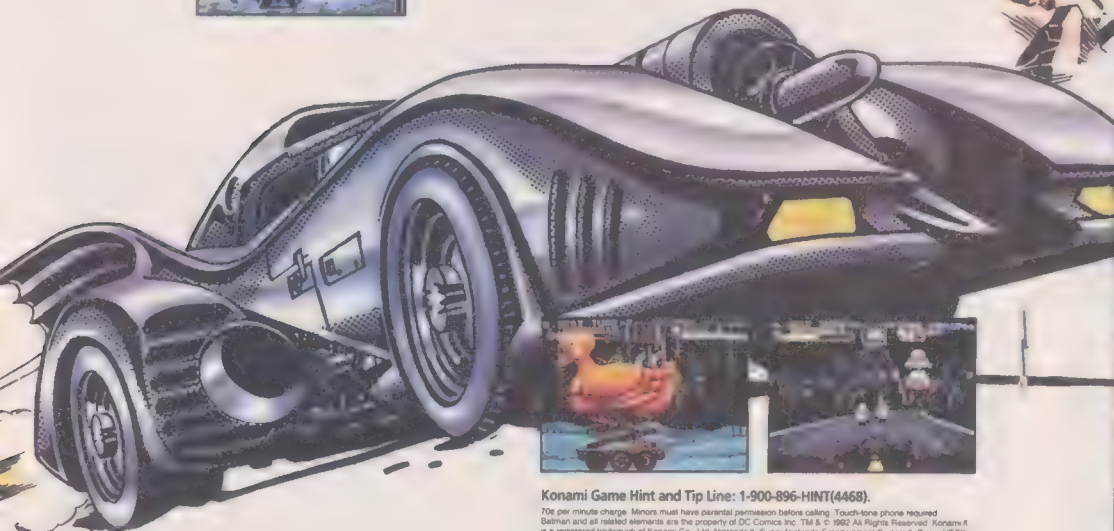
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The frigid fiend is chillin' in his way cool lair waiting to put the **Caped Crusader** on ice. So put on your cowl and put up your dukes. Can't you hear **Gotham City** screaming for help?!

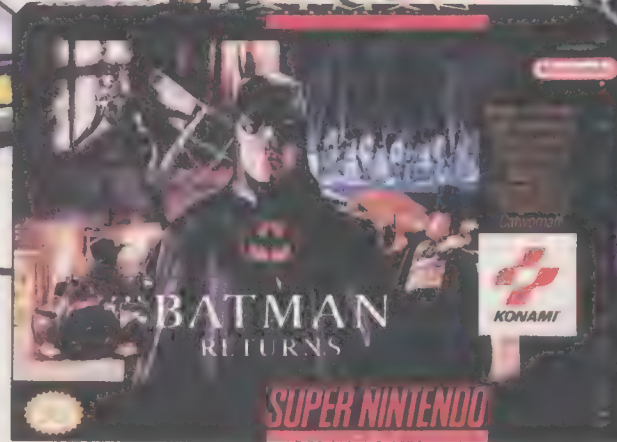


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KANSAS FIFTEEN
MILES SOUTH OF
SMALLVILLE.

WHY, THAT MISERABLE,
TWO-BIT--!

JONATHAN,
PLEASE! DON'T
GET YOURSELF SO
UPSET! YOU KNOW
IT'S NOT GOOD
FOR YOUR
HEART!

I KNOW, MARTHA... BUT
IT JUST MAKES MY BLOOD
BOIL WHEN I SEE THESE
IMPOSTORS ON TV.
THEY'RE NO MORE OUR
BOY THAN I'M THE KING
OF ENGLAND!

MAKES ME WANT TO
GO ON TV MYSELF. I'D
LIKE TO TELL THE WHOLE
BLASTED WORLD THAT
CLARK KENT IS THE
REAL SUPERMAN--THE
ONLY SUPERMAN!

I WISH WE COULD,
TOO, DEAR--BUT
YOU KNOW THAT WE
CAN'T. IT ISN'T SO
MUCH FOR US... BUT
FOR LOIS AND LANA,
AND ALL THE REST
OF CLARK'S FRIENDS
WHO WOULD BE PUT
IN DANGER

I KNOW,
I KNOW.

BUT JUST LOOK
AT THIS! THERE'S
SOMETHING ELSE THAT
FROSTS MY BRITCHES...

...IT'S MATRIX--OR
SUPERGIRL OR WHAT-
EVER SHE CALLS HER-
SELF THESE DAYS.
FIRST, SHE TOOK UP
WITH THE LUTHOR BOY,
AND NOW SHE'S MAKING
COW EYES AT THIS
YOUNG TWERP!

I KNOW
SHE
DIDN'T STAY
WITH US
LONG--

--BUT I'D HOPED WE'D
BROUGHT HER UP BETTER
THAN THAT! SHE WAS
PRACTICALLY A BLANK SLATE
WHEN CLARK BROUGHT HER
TO US... SO INNOCENT.*

YES, SHE
WAS SUCH A
SWEET CHILD
IT BROKE
MY HEART
WHEN SHE RAN
OFF.**

MAYBE IT WAS
MY FAULT,
MARTHA. MAY-
BE I JUST
DIDN'T KNOW
HOW TO
RAISE A
DAUGHTER

YOU JUST
HUSH NOW,
JONATHAN.
WE DID
THE BEST WE
COULD IN THE
TIME WE HAD
HER.

* SUPERMAN #22. ** ACTION #644

"...IT'S JUST SUCH
AN UNCERTAIN
WORLD OUT THERE!"

**BUDDA-
BUDDA-
BUDDA!**

WASTE ALL THE
AMMO YOU WANT,
I WON'T GET A
SCRATCH!

BUT I
AM GETTING
ANNOYED!

SO TELL
ME, WHERE'D
YOU PUNKS GET
THE HEAVY
ARTILLERY?

DON'T
MAKE
ME ASK
TWICE!

YOU
WON'T--

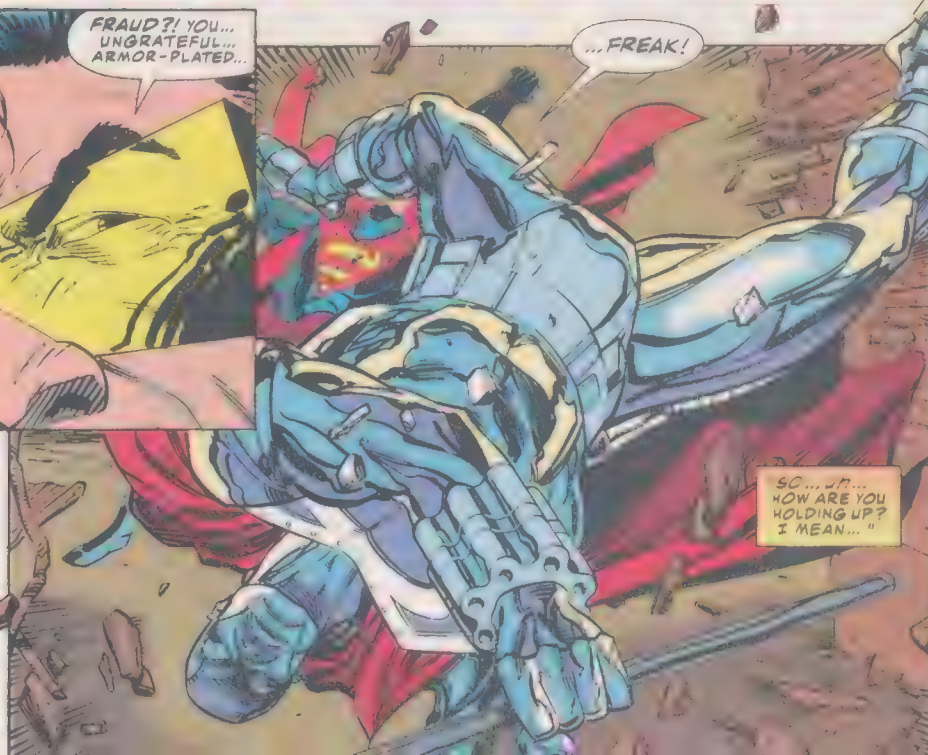
--SUCKER-R-

YES, YOUR OTHER
WOULD-BE ASSAIL-
ANTS SCATTER
LIKE THE ROACHES
THEY ARE. NO
MATTER... I FUSED
THEIR WEAPONS'
FIRING
MECHANISMS!

THEY
CAN BE
ROUNDED UP
LATER. BUT
NOW, WE TWO
MUST
TALK...

WHAT IN
THE--?!

SUPERMAN?!



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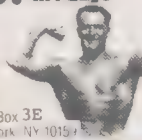
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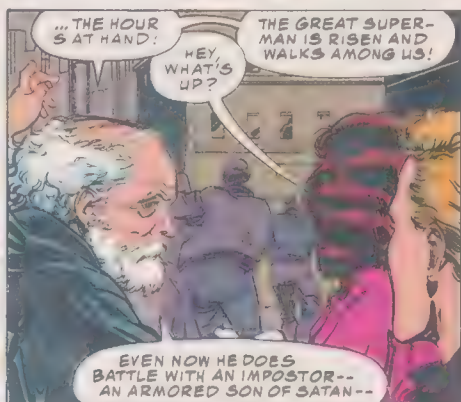
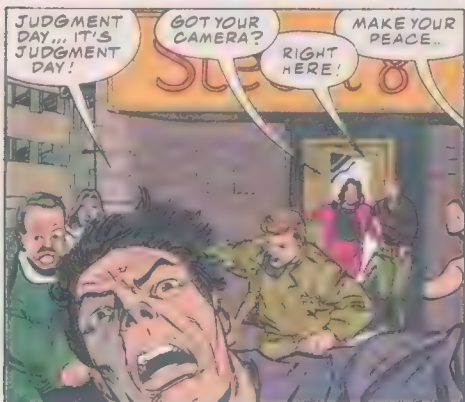
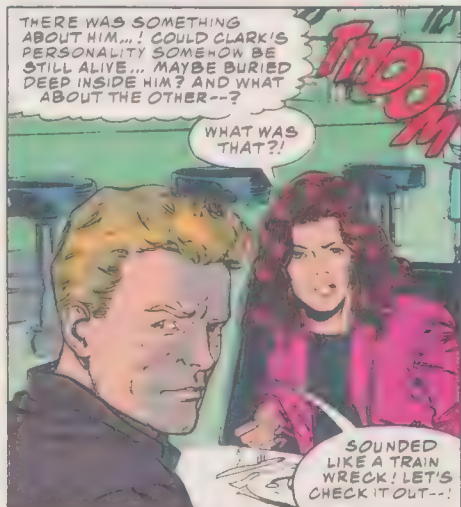
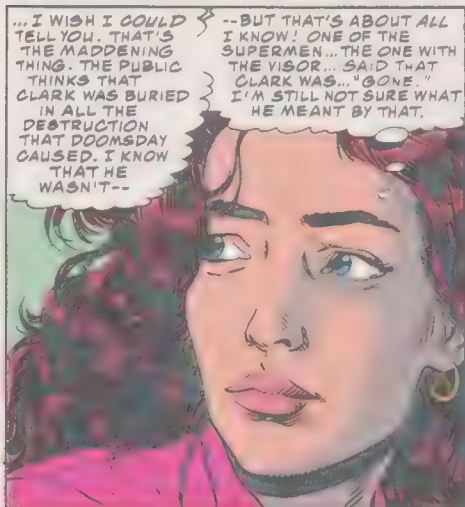
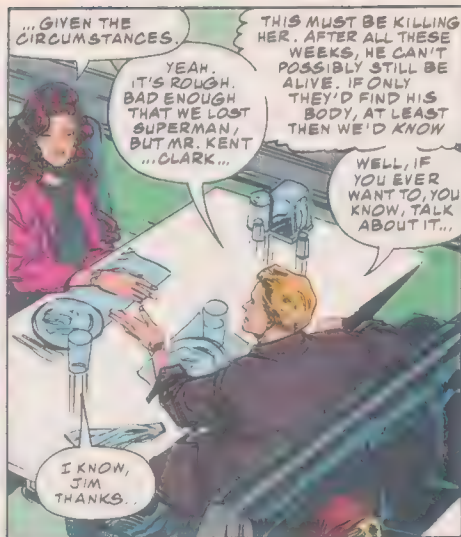
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COMING SOON

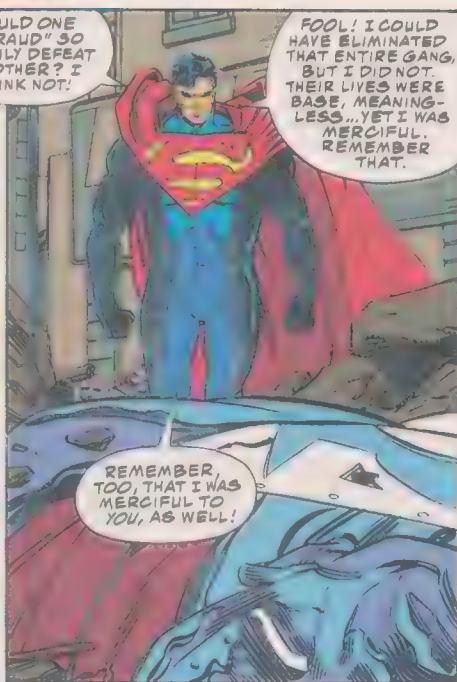


"--OVER ON
LARSON
BOULEVARD!"



COULD ONE
"FRAUD" SO
EASILY DEFEAT
ANOTHER? I
THINK NOT!

FOOL! I COULD
HAVE ELIMINATED
THAT ENTIRE GANG,
BUT I DID NOT.
THEIR LIVES WERE
BASE, MEANING-
LESS...YET I WAS
MERCIFUL.
REMEMBER
THAT.



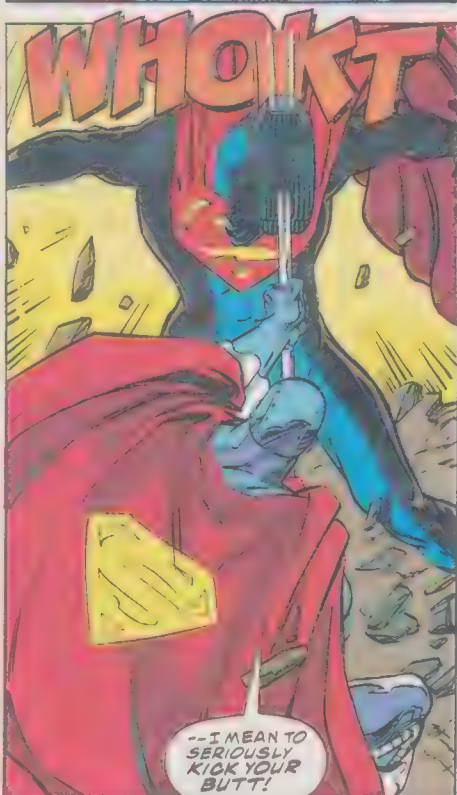
SU-PER-MAN!
SU-PER-MAN!

EH?

AH!

HEAR ME,
GOOD PEOPLE! I
AM INDEED THE ONE
TRUE SUPERMAN...AND
I WILL SUFFER NO
PRETENDERS TO MY
GOOD NAME.

I'M NOT
PRETENDING--



--I MEAN TO
SERIOUSLY
KICK YOUR
BUTT!



"THE ONE TRUE
SUPERMAN,"
HUH?

THE MAN I ADMIRER
NEVER SPOKE LIKE
THAT. THE WAY I SEE
IT, YOU'RE THE
PRETENDER..

...JUST A LITTLE TIN
GOD WITH A CAPE! OR
MAYBE A METAHUMAN
WITH MESSIANIC
DELUSIONS!

THE ONLY DELUSIONS.. ARE..

...YOURS!!

YES-- DESTROY
THE IRON
DEMON!

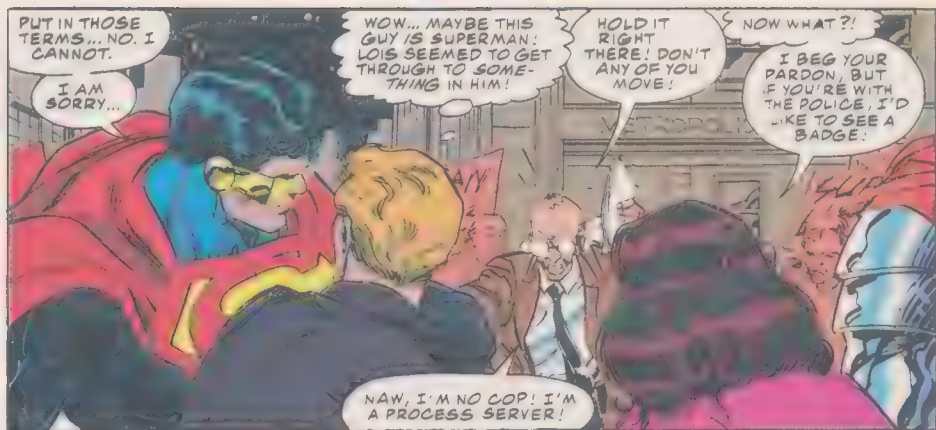
KTUNG

NO!! THE
TRUE DEMON
IS HE WHO
HIDES HIS
EYES--

--SMITE HIM
WITH YOUR HOLY
HAMMER,
SUPERMAN!

BOTH
OF YOU--
STOP!!





PUT IN THOSE TERMS... NO, I CANNOT.

I AM SORRY...

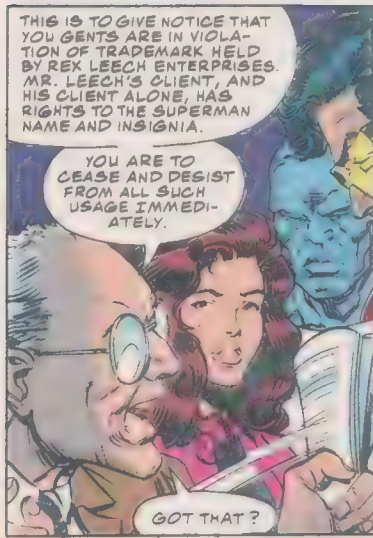
WOW... MAYBE THIS GUY IS SUPERMAN! LOIS SEEMED TO GET THROUGH TO SOMETHING IN HIM!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! DON'T ANY OF YOU MOVE!

NOW WHAT?!

I BEG YOUR PARDON, BUT IF YOU'RE WITH THE POLICE, I'D LIKE TO SEE A BADGE.

NOW, I'M NO COP! I'M A PROCESS SERVER!



THIS IS TO GIVE NOTICE THAT YOU GENTS ARE IN VIOLATION OF TRADEMARK HELD BY REX LEECH ENTERPRISES. MR. LEECH'S CLIENT, AND HIS CLIENT ALONE, HAS RIGHTS TO THE SUPERMAN NAME AND INSIGNIA.

YOU ARE TO CEASE AND DESIST FROM ALL SUCH USAGE IMMEDIATELY.

GOT THAT?



NO.

GOT THIS?

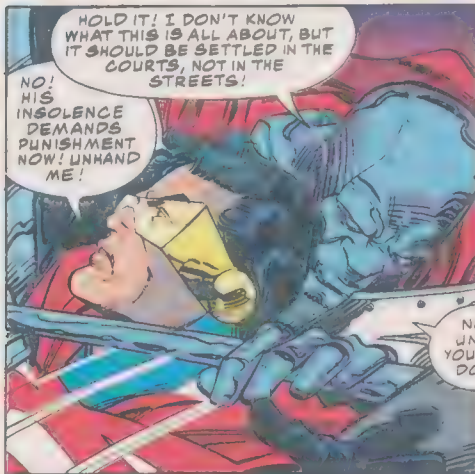
HEY! MY PAPERS--!



THE FATE OF YOUR PAPERS IS THE LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES!

OGOD! Y-YOU WOULDN'T--? HELP!!

HAH! FRY THE MONEY-CHANGER!



HOLD IT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, BUT IT SHOULD BE SETTLED IN THE COURTS, NOT IN THE STREETS!

NO! HIS INSOLENCE DEMANDS PUNISHMENT NOW! UNHAND ME!

NOT UNTIL YOU COOL DOWN!



DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN HOLD HIM! BETTER GET HIM OUT OF HERE BEFORE SOMEONE GETS HURT!

SO MUCH FOR MY PEACE-MAKING EFFORTS...

...WHERE WILL
THIS ALL END?"

WHAT
DOES IT
TAKE TO
MAKE YOU
LISTEN TO
REASON?
YOU CAN'T
GO AROUND
FRYING
PEOPLE
WHO CROSS
YOU!

NO ONE
TELLS ME
WHAT I CAN
OR CANNOT
DO! I AM
SUPER-
MAN!

SORRY. THE
HIGH-AND-MIGHTY
ROUTINE DOESN'T
IMPRESS ME.

NO? THEN
PERHAPS THIS
WILL...

HEY! WHAT'RE
YOU DOING?

MERELY ADDING
MY POWER OF
FLIGHT TO YOURS
WE SHALL SEE
HOW HIGH AND
FAST WE CAN
GO!

NO!
STOP, YOU
ID.IOT--!

MIGHT AS
WELL ARGUE
WITH THE
WIND!

HATE TO TURN HIM
LOOSE WHILE HE'S
SO OUT OF
CONTROL--

GOT TO SAVE
MYSELF...IF
I CAN!

--BUT
I DON'T
HAVE MUCH
CHOICE.

NO
SENSE IN
BOTH OF US
DYING...

SUIT'S HOLDING UP
SO FAR, BUT AT THIS RATE,
WE'LL SOON HIT ESCAPE
VELOCITY, AND THIS
ARMOR WASN'T DESIGNED
FOR SPACE TRAVEL!

DC UNIVERSE

LARGER THAN LIFE: THE ATOM!



*Some big problems
have very
small solutions!*

**THE
MAN IS
BACK!**
or is he?

Ain't nothing like the real thing! It may be the real Atom, Ray Palmer, but the things that are happening in his life seem far from possibly being real!

The Atom returns to the mainstream in the wildest ride of his career! He's losing control of his life, of his powers, and of himself. Years of shrinking and growing have played havoc with his mind as scenes of his tormented past begin to manifest themselves as deadly visions.

As if that weren't enough, his friend Professor Hyatt lies on a hospital bed, with a clock-shaped time bomb attached to his face. It looks like the work of The Atom's archenemy **Chronos**!

Unfortunately for Hyatt and The Atom, Chronos also lies in a hospital comatose! It's solely up to The Atom to search for the key to save both men. And the key lies within himself!

With Hyatt and Chronos likely to die, can The Atom trust his own powers enough to stop the torment? Or will the curse of his errant powers doom him to these visions **forever**?



DC BULLETS

OK, so we're holding out on you! As of last November, this started on **LOBO: THE MOVIE**! Although nothing is official yet, if the Main Man's following continues to grow, it's only a matter of time before our chain-slinging Czarnian winds up on the silver screen!



Valentine's Day this year was a special one for **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES** penciller **Stuart Immonen** and his wife Katherine. On February 14th, Katherine gave birth to **Conner Jones Immonen**. Conner has the super-ability to wake up crying just as mommy and daddy fall asleep. This qualifies him as the youngest Legionnaire.

School of Visual Arts alumni **Phil Jimenez** returned as guest speaker to **Klaus Janson's** art class. Phil was once a student in Klaus's class and said, "It was fun to motivate kids to live life their own way."

Dan Jurgens and his wife Ann added another baby boy to their growing ranks. On March 21st, **Quinn Merrill Jurgens** took his first breath of air. Quinn's first words, "You killed who, Daddy?!" Daddy Dan has a lot of explaining to do!

Does the Atom have trouble getting on amusement park rides because of the "You must be this high" rule?

"<REPORT!>"

"<A BAND OF
ASTEROIDS LOOMS
BEFORE US,
EXALTED ONE.
THERE COULD BE
SOME DELAY...>"

< I WILL BROOK
NO DELAYS!
ELIMINATE ALL
OBSTACLES! >

< AS YOU
COMMAND,
MY LORD! >

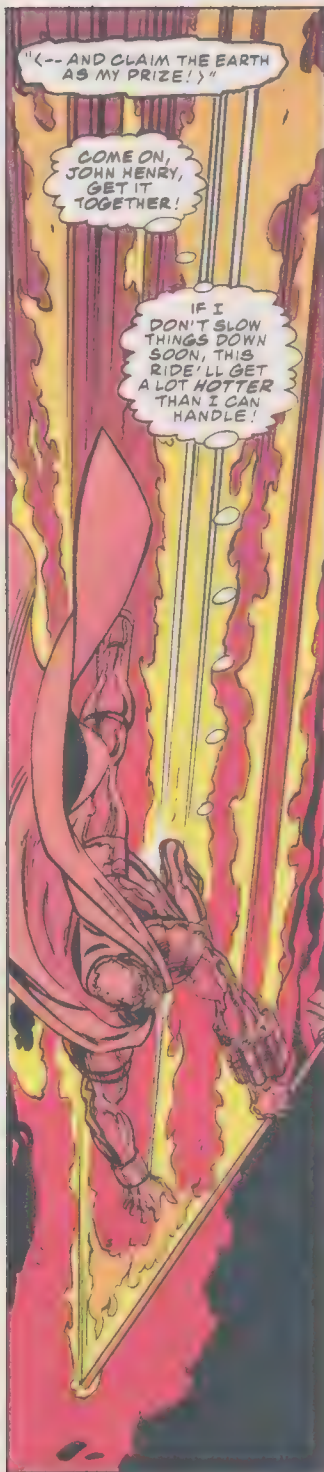
< FIRING
FORWARD
DISRUPTORS! >

< SOON I
SHALL AT LONG
LAST HAVE MY
REVENGE
UPON THE
KRYPTONIAN. >

< FROM WHAT I HAVE
LEARNED, HIS LOVE
FOR THIS PLANET--
THIS EARTH--WAS EVEN
GREATER THAN THAT
FOR HIS NATIVE
KRYPTON! >

< POOR LITTLE WORLD!
YOUR DOOM WAS SEALED
THE DAY THAT SUPER-
MAN REFUSED MY
IMPERIAL ORDER. >

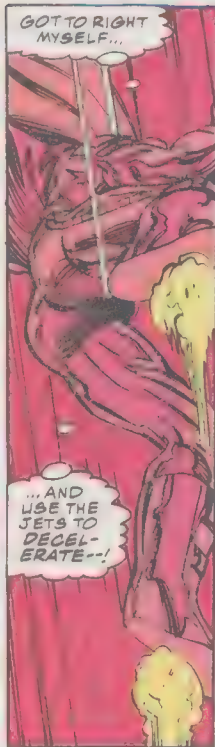
< I SHALL
GRIND YOUR
CHAMPION'S
BONES
BENEATH MY
HEEL-- >



"-- AND CLAIM THE EARTH AS MY PRIZE! --"

COME ON, JOHN HENRY, GET IT TOGETHER!

IF I DON'T SLOW THINGS DOWN SOON, THIS RIDE'LL GET A LOT HOTTER THAN I CAN HANDLE!



GOT TO RIGHT MYSELF...

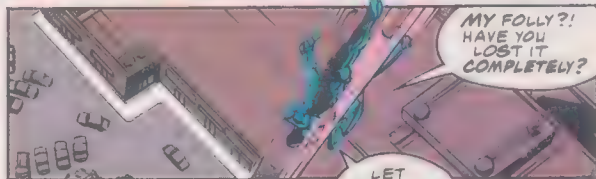
...AND USE THE JETS TO DECELERATE--!



FLANG

HEY!!

YOU HAVE NOT YET FULLY PAID FOR YOUR FOLLY, "MAN OF STEEL!"



MY FOLLY?! HAVE YOU LOST IT COMPLETELY?

LET GO OF ME BEFORE WE--!



BAD OOM

W-WAS THAT A BOMB?



NO. SOMETHING FELL-- LOOKED LIKE PEOPLE!

LORD, NO ONE COULD SURVIVE THAT!

NO ONE? FIND OUT NEXT WEEK IN MAN OF STEEL #24!



DC COMICS

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Dear Mike:

Everyone who had a part in creating ACTION COMICS #685 should stand up and be recognized! This is an excellent example of what a comic book should be.

It's been a long time since a comic book has been able to get me emotionally involved in the story. I believe it was the strong contrasts presented of the different reactions people experienced to Superman's death that really caught my interest.

What was especially intriguing to me was that the two people in Metropolis who seemed the most emotional were in direct contrast to each other—the one who hated him the most and the one who loved him the most. And yet these two people were also the ones who had to hide their true emotional ties to Superman; Luthor could not give vent to his hatred, nor could Lois display her love for the fallen hero. It seems ironic that these two should be bound together by such emotional burdens. It may be tragic, however, for them to carry an emotional burden that is too heavy for one person to bear alone.

The *coup de grâce* of this comic was Bibbo's grief. I think it was this touching scene of Bibbo missing his "fav'rit" that really brought this story into the realm of the believable.

Congratulations to all of you.

Claudia Walker
Carthage, MO

Dear Mike:

Two weeks ago, when SUPERMAN #75 came out, I rushed home with both my newsstand and collector's editions. That night I lay down on the floor of my twin 10-year-old boys' bedroom and very carefully and slowly read it to them. It was a special time for us and I wanted it to be a time that they will remember. The day that Superman died. No small matter indeed! My boys had a million questions, of course, and I couldn't answer them all, but they did get to see the noble, heroic

battle that Superman fought. They saw that he fought on, even when he knew he was alone and out-gunned. He didn't give up! Maybe my boys can learn a lesson from that. Superman, not a bad example of what's good in the comic-book world.

As I read each of the "Doomsday" stories and the first couple of the "Funeral for a Friend" issues, I was in awe. After 30 years of reading and collecting comics, I thought I had seen it all. Not so! DC pulled out all the stops on these stories. But nothing, not even the Death of Superman, affected me the way the last page of ACTION #685 did! To put it in simple terms: I cried. When Bibbo got down on his knees and started praying, I just started crying. How could just a simple comic-book story get to me this way? Roger Stern wrote a very powerful story. It really moved me. SUPERMAN #75 and ACTION #685 have made me proud to be a comic-book collector and especially a SUPERMAN collector! This 38-year-old father of three would just like to say a very much deserved thank-you to all the creative people at DC. Your stories have been a part of my life for over 30 years, and now they will be a part of my sons' lives also!

David R. Dalton
Lawton, OK

Dear Editor:

Stupid, how can we believe a story where Superman is dead?

Pages 2 and 3, someone should have asked those soldiers if they think they are above the law. The same person should ask them if they know what "treason" means.

Superman should come out of his self-imposed sleep in SUPERMAN #76. He has had tougher fights lots of time.

Lois, you will see him as good as new in six days, or your writers stink.

We have heard some nonsense about four Supermen coming in March. Come on. You made one giant, stupid mistake. Don't compound it.

In two weeks Superman's body isn't stolen—he came to and left.

If this isn't straightened out in two weeks, I'll be ashamed to admit that I read DC comics.

Allan Lane
Conemaugh, PA

Dear Mike and Jennifer:

Certainly has been an interesting last few weeks for the SUPERMAN titles and for comics in general, eh?

I can't say that I necessarily like all the hoopla. I'm in this hobby strictly because I enjoy reading the books, not because I want to buy sixteen copies of a bagged issue and never open any of them and sell them in order to become tremendously wealthy. So, on the one hand, the last few weeks have been a little frustrating, fighting long lines at the Golden Apple and Comics, Ink stores to compete with speculators.

On the other hand, I have enjoyed some of the books themselves. While I thought SUPERMAN #75 was pretty decent, I also thought that the all-full-page-panels format was not entirely successful; however, I found Dan Jurgens's follow-up in the same week's JUSTICE LEAGUE one of the best issues since the renumbered JLA began.

And now comes ACTION #685. I liked it! I really haven't been too crazy about Roger Stern's scripts in ACTION lately. While Stern definitely understands the nature of storytelling much better than a lot of pretenders to the throne, I just haven't gotten into his SUPERMAN stories like I have, say, Dan Jurgens's.

Be that as it may, I thought his writing in "Re:Actions" was superb. Yeah, there'll be purists out there to point out how the script violates certain dramatic principles of single protagonists and three-act structures, et cetera, et cetera; but in the wake of the Man of Steel's death, and after the vain attempts to revive him last week in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #498, with so many characters in the DC Universe affected by Superman's death, I think that giving us

glimpses of many different reactions was the way to go.

As an aside, these days there seems to be a reluctance to use asterisked footnotes to tell readers when an event occurred that a character refers to in dialogue. I always liked this comics tradition—it made for some fun back-issue searching. I applaud your willingness to go against the trend and footnote the stories in "Doomsday" and "Funeral for a Friend" thusly, even though many of these are being read by people who haven't read comics in years, or ever, and who some editors might fear would be confused by these notes.

While I haven't cared for some of Stern's recent writing, the same can't be said for Jackson Guice and Denis Rodier—I've loved their collaboration on the art side of ACTION COMICS during the last year or so. Their possibly more realistic style is a nice contrast to the more traditional super-hero art styles of Bogdanove, Jurgens and Grummett and, at the same time, like the other artists, their version of Superman is full of nobility and raw power.

Frank Balkin
Los Angeles, CA

Dear Jennifer and Mike:

ACTION COMICS has always been my favorite SUPERMAN book, the reason being Roger Stern's scripts. There is something about the words he puts in the characters' mouths that seems natural. It's not just the dialects, it's the vocabulary. Perry speaks differently than Jimmy, Lana and Lois are distinguishable from Supergirl. The point I'm driving at is Roger's eloquence makes for an emotional script.

"Re:Actions" was a sad story. Perhaps "sad" is incorrect... "Re:Actions" was a passionate story. The Guardian going against Westfield, Lex slamming that chair on the deceased Doomsday, Lois's return to Clark's apartment. The Toyman and the Parasite reflecting on the event. But most touching of all was Bibbo's plea to God to take care of his "fav'rit."

Kevin J. Conley
Methuen, MA

Dear Everybody:

This "Doomsday" storyline is starting to get to me! I had just finished reading my copy of ACTION COMICS when, suddenly, the fire alarm for my apartment building goes off! Luckily, it

proved to be a false alarm. But from now on, I'll "keep watching the skies."

Mike Clark
Augusta, ME

Dear Carlin and Co:

I haven't written to a SUPERMAN comic since 1988, when I was the first one to solve the "who is the NEW Gangbuster?" mystery (and, just my luck, you didn't give out Baldies back then). Since then, although your comics are among my favorites every month, I've not been motivated to write to you—until ACTION #685, that is.

First of all, kudos to Stern for such a tightly plotted issue. After reading the news coverage of Clark's death, Cadmus's attempt to seize his body, the showdown between Cadmus and Team Luthor/Supergirl, the wonderful speech by Mayor Berkowitz, and a visit to the Daily Planet, I figured the issue must be just about over. I looked down, and "Great Scott, I'm only on page 97!" I was shocked at how much story was in those twenty-two pages! Two weeks ago, SUPERMAN #75 took me five minutes to read. Last week, we spent a whole issue watching them try to get Superman resuscitated. They were both well written, but I like to get more meat for \$1.25!

The real reason that I wrote in was that you changed my impression of Bibbo forever. For twenty pages, the effects of the death on everyone were, to me, unsurprising. Perry and Jimmy looking pensive, the Kents finally accepting it, Lana in shock, various citizens talking of how he affected them, some criminals happy. Even Lois's reflections on page 14 were, although beautiful, unsurprising.

But page 22! I've always seen Bibbo as kind of silly. Through all that you've done with him so far, even the moments when you thought you were doing something really heartwarming with his character, I still saw him as a shallow lunkhead. But when you showed him humbling himself, truly in pain that his fav'rit was dead, talking to God on the floor of his bar, I finished the issue in tears.

Thanks for a beautiful story, and a good cry.

Michael Hutchinson
Crandon, WI

Thanks for a great letter, Michael. Although we weren't giving out Baldies when you first wrote in, maybe we can make it up to you now, by awarding you not only

our (in)famous Baldy, but our rare and literally priceless platinum SUPERMAN #75!

—Jennifer Frank
Purveyor of Precious Platinum
Periodical

NEXT WEEK: The Man of Steel has defeated his nemesis and confronted his namesake, so what's next? Just the biggest blowout you've ever seen when a familiar malevolent alien sets the Earth in his sights! All in MAN OF STEEL #24, written by Louise Simonson, pencilled by Jon Bogdanove and inked by Dennis Janke.

IN TWO WEEKS: The Last Son of Krypton has been pretty ruthless in his methods, but would he really devastate a whole city? Yes, according to the Cyborg Superman, who's prepared to fight laser and steel for his opinion. SUPERMAN #80 is written and drawn by Dan Jurgens and finished by Brett Breeding.

IN THREE WEEKS: Things are not always what they seem: While someone plots to kill most of the new Supermen, a well-known American city has some surprising new developments. Meanwhile, something's going on in the Fortress of Solitude. ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #503 is written by Karl Kesel, pencilled by Tom Grummett and inked by Doug Hazlewood.

IN ONE MONTH: Things look bad for the Kryptonian Superman, but not nearly as bad as they look for the Earth! Help is on its way from the Antarctic, but it might be too little, too late. ACTION COMICS #690 is written by Roger Stern, laid out by Jackson Guice and finished by Denis Rodier.

All those channels and, still, there's nothing by Superman on the news! This month's cover was laid out by Ed Hannigan, pencilled by Kerry Gammill and inked by Jackson Guice. Click!



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